

INLAND FISHERIES
WOLF RIVER BASIN SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2008

As published in the January 2008 issue of *Wisconservation*, the Fox River Navigational System Authority held a series of public meetings concerning the re-opening of navigation on the Fox River between Lake Winnebago (south), and the Bay of Green Bay (north). Legend – The Fox River in the area described contains 17 Lock Structures. The Rapide Croche Lock Wrightstown Wisconsin is currently permanently sealed to navigation.

The FRNSA, a State of Wisconsin statutory authority plans to construct an over-land boat transfer facility at Rapide Croche, which would re-establish the historical lockage river way to a non-blockade navigation system.

Aquatic Invasive Species -The plan presenters indicate the Rapide Croche facility will directly deal with AIS through vessel inspection and “hot” water bath – the current 60 plus vectors to Lake Winnebago do not! The “hot” water bath theory was explained by a University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute expert. He indicated a one-minute Bath exposure of 110 degrees “F” water will neutralize all current known AIS in the river system. (Laboratory test results cited – Laboratory time-table challenged)

However, the cited hot water bath laboratory research does not make reference to the current 180 plus known invasive species within the Great Lakes and what effect the bath may or may not have on these species. Furthermore, if the cited “hot” water bath is such an effective neutralizing – invasive specie killer, current Great Lakes anti ballast water dumping proponents would be active in this regard.

A final FRNSA plan will be completed and forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources - Natural Resources Board for review and approval. (May 2008)

*A mock-up transfer station/re-designed lock structure was included in the presentation.

The Rapide Croche Lock refitting is only a small part of a larger river - historical preservation, revitalization, economic and construction plan projected to affect all business-municipalities within the Wolf River Basin – the upper and lower Fox River including all tributaries. Several private on-river construction plans are underway.

The FRNSA presenters boast of a projected \$70 million dollar economic impact the Rapide Croche Lock opening would create. An invasive specie threat, damage to the “Basin” fishery, would affect the \$262 million dollar economic contributions four Lake Winnebago counties currently create.

Invasive Specie control and fishery protection is the critical issue.
Department of Natural Resources invasive specie staff have been involved
with the FRNSA planners.

PCB Clean-Up The Little Lake Butte des Morts activity is currently limited to
hauling of dewatered sediment to landfill facilities.

Brown County project activity involves the purchase of necessary equipment and
landfill site selection.

The EPA/DNR "Order" and deadline to initiate equipment purchasing remains active.

NEXT UPDATE! (April 2008_

Respectfully Submitted

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